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Letter Gen. Saxe to

Letter of Gen. Saxe to Warren
of Springfield at Newark Times
before a State Convention of Farmers

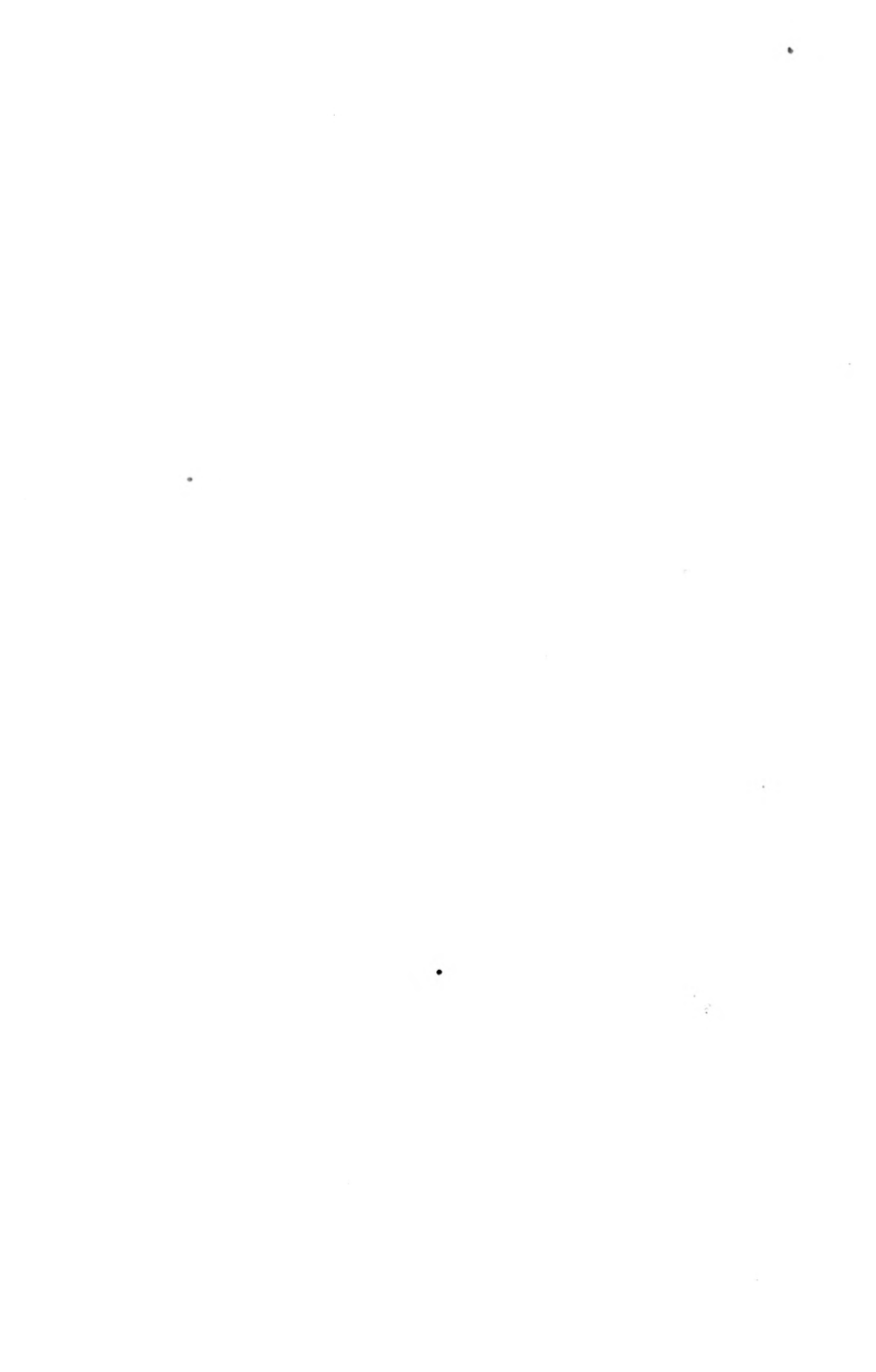




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OHIO'S CONTRIBUTION, SACRIFICE AND SERVICE IN THE WAR.

ORATION
OF
GENL. J. WARREN KEIFER,

OF
SPRINGFIELD.

AT
NEWARK, OHIO,

BEFORE A

“State Re-Union of Soldiers and Sailors.”

MONDAY, JULY 22, 1878.

The Anniversary of the death of

MAJ. GENL. JAMES B. McPHERSON

“Stand by the Flag! all doubt and treason scorning,
“Believe, with courage firm and faith sublime,
“That it will float until the eternal morning
“Palest, in its glories, all the lights of Time!”

SPRINGFIELD, OHIO,

REPUBLIC PRINTING COMPANY, PRINTERS.

1878.



ORATION.



Soldiers and Sailors, Citizens of Ohio :

This is a representative meeting of the surviving Soldiers and Sailors of our American Republic's last, greatest, most sanguinary war—a war, when measured by the multitudes engaged, the lives lost, the blood shed, the number of principal battles, affairs and great skirmishes within the period of its duration, the moral grandeur of the principles at issue, and the material results attained, all former wars on this continent sink into utter insignificance.

It is a time-honored custom for the surviving actors in the drama of any war which marks the triumph of some great principle in political government tending to the liberation of mankind from the crushing heel of tyranny, to meet and honor their comrades who have paid the penalty of heroic devotion, and also renew fraternal bonds knit in the fiery conflict.

In our recent war all devotees of the Union, regardless of rank or station, made common cause.

Animated by a desire to do honor to the dead, and to strengthen the ties of friendship and love for the living Soldiers and Sailors, this vast assemblage has come together.

Here the humblest soldier is on a level with those high in authority, or of great war-renown.*

We have with us and as one of us to-day, His Excellency, R. B. Hayes, the honored Chief Magistrate of our redeemed Republic, who, in the war, won laurels bright and lasting.

McPHERSON.

In 1841 there might have been seen a boy, thirteen years of age, with a sad face, having just kissed the lips of an anxious mother, holding a small bundle in one hand, setting out for the first time from his home, near Clyde, Ohio, to assume the world's responsibilities and cares among strangers, and to reach out for the possibilities only attainable in a Republic. He was the son of a blacksmith and small farmer, then and theretofore poor, and at the time referred to, a hopeless invalid. When this young blacksmith-boy had gone a few rods from the parental roof he turned to cast another look at

*Gen'ls Sherman, Garfield, and others were present.

the house where he was born and so far reared, when he beheld his mother, little sisters and brother standing in the door, gazing after him and weeping over his departure from home while yet so young. To his tender heart this affecting scene almost overcame him, but he clutched his bundle a little tighter, leaned forward, summoned new resolution and made his little feet patter rapidly over the ground until out of sight of mother and home. He then turned aside into a small woods and himself wept and sobbed until his eyes were swollen and red. This over, his young heart regained courage and he resumed his journey, to accept employment in a small store at Green Springs, five miles away.

What thoughts, hopes and fears crowded, in the intensity of his feelings and sensibilities, through the mind of this slender youth during that walk may be only vaguely conceived.

Twenty-three years later, the body of this once tender-hearted boy, then grown to be a man of stately form, was borne back to that mother, wrapped in the flag of his country, as his winding sheet and shroud of death.

Millions of patriotic people mourned in deep sorrow his untimely death. While his aged grand-mother and mother, brother and sisters, friends and neighbors followed him to his tomb in the little orchard where he had in youth so often sported, a great nation of loyal men and women mourned and refused to be comforted. His life was short, his character exemplary, his disposition was sweet, and his death was of all others the grandest for a soldier.

In the language of Genl. Sherman at the time, "he fell in battle, "booted and spurred as the gallant knight and gentleman should "wish."

In the midst of a great battle he received his death wound and fell to rise no more, forever. With a solitary soldier by his side to moisten his lips from a rude canteen, with a Southern forest around him and the canopy of heaven only above him, the sharp crack and crash of musketry, the clank of sabres and the roar of cannon resounding everywhere about him, and the battle-shouts of contending cohorts ringing over him, beneath a Georgia sun, amid the smoke of battle;

"With banners blooming in the air,"

and one wounded and bleeding comrade as a witness, his soul, sanctified by a life of purity, patriotism and christianity, passed from his

mortal body to cleave the ethereal realms and alight at the foot of the throne of God.

Though young in years* when death ended his career, he was the commander of an army in the cause of his country.

This day, fourteen years ago, at the head of the Army of the Tennessee, almost in sight of Atlanta, this typical soldier fell.

Such is briefly the beginning and ending of the career of Maj. Genl. James B. McPherson, one of Ohio's bravest, best and most accomplished soldiers.

It is in the highest sense proper that the surviving Union Soldiers of Ohio should assemble on the anniversary of the death of General McPherson, take each other by the hands, look each other in the face, recall the events, great and small, of the late war, and while thus holding friendly and sweet converse together, draw renewed inspiration from his life and death.

I do not think proper or feel competent now and here to attempt to portray the beauty, grandeur and nobleness of Genl. McPherson's life and character. That task I shrink from. His life should be written by a competent hand and deguerreotyped in the minds and hearts, especially of the young men of this nation. From its study, new hope will be taken and greater possibilities will be foreseen and grasped.

His life demonstrates anew the paramount distinguishing feature between a Monarchy and our American Republic. Only in such a government as ours, is it possible for the son of the most lowly citizen, through perseverance, by steadfastness of purpose, with laudable pride and ambition, zeal and integrity, to attain the highest rank and the most distinguished honor.

There is no super-incumbent social or political strata in this country through which the most humble citizen may not pierce, penetrate, and rise to fame.

McPherson was in an eminent degree a representative Union Soldier of the late war. In him was personified the best and purest type of a soldier of a free Republic. Educated a soldier, he loved not war. Learned in the science and arts of war, he preferred a life of peace. In no sense or degree responsible for the war, he met it as a duty, more in the capacity of a citizen than a soldier.

He fell, not like Charles the Bold contending for feudalism and a ducal crown for his own head, or like the chivalric Bayard for fame

*McPherson was born November 11th, 1828.

and the glory and renown of knighthood, but with all the qualities of bravery, boldness and chivalry of both combined, he fell fighting for no personal or selfish ends, but for the principle of universal liberty.

OHIO'S CONTRIBUTION OF MEN TO THE WAR.

In answering the question, What was Ohio's Contribution of Men to the War? I shall draw no invidious distinctions. From whatsoever State the Union soldiers came, they stood shoulder to shoulder in the army as soldiers of the United States, and not of any particular State. In war they were all comrades, and in peace they remain so. They fought for nationality and one flag, not sectionalism or State individuality. The true citizen of Ohio is justly proud to be called such, but still prouder of being called a citizen of the United States. Ohio's sons owe no duty to their State not consistent with their duty to the Union.

Ohio furnished twenty-three infantry regiments for three months, in response to President Lincoln's call for 75,000 men, and ten other regiments which the Government refused to accept on that call.

She furnished one hundred and seventeen infantry regiments for three years, twenty-seven for one year, two for six months, three others for three months and forty-three for one hundred days. Thirteen others were cavalry and three were artillery regiments for three years.

Besides these regimental organizations, Ohio furnished twenty-six independent batteries of artillery, five independent companies of cavalry. Other companies of sharpshooters, large portions of five regiments credited to West Virginia, and two to Kentucky, two regiments of "United States Colored Troops," so called; also a large portion of the 54th and 55th Massachusetts Colored Infantry regiments. There were 5092 "Colored Troops" credited to Ohio. Many more of her colored citizens, doubtless enlisted and were credited elsewhere. Three thousand four hundred and forty-three men are known to have entered the Western gunboat service. Many others entered the naval and marine service. Still others enlisted during the war in the regular army.

Ohio furnished 15,766 "Squirrel Hunters" for service when Cincinnati and the Southern State border were threatened in 1862; also about 50,000 militia for duty during the "Morgan Raid" in

1863. When the war closed, Ohio had nearly 2,000 men, enlisted but not yet mustered, ready to go to the field to fill the gaps in the depleted ranks of her regiments.

Over 20,000 of the three years troops re-enlisted as veterans, to be mustered out only by death, disability or final victory. From the best prepared statistics of the Provost Marshal General and Adjutant General of the U. S. A., and the Adjutant General of Ohio, excluding re-enlistments, "Squirrel Hunters," and militia, and including a low estimate for irregular enlistments in the army and navy not credited to Ohio, it is found that Ohio furnished of her citizens 340,000 men of all arms of the service for the war; and reduced to a department standard, they represent 240,000 three years soldiers.

Under the ten Presidential calls for troops, Ohio furnished 310,654 soldiers, the sum of her quotas being only 306,322. (Many of the States never filled their quotas.) Of this immense army of men only 8750 were raised by the draft; all others were volunteers.

More than one-half in number of Ohio's adult male population tendered their lives as a sacrificial offering to the Union. From the first call to arms in 1861 to peace in 1865, 2,668,000 Union patriots answered to the calls of the President of the United States, became the defenders of their country's cause, and the avengers of her wrongs. More than one-eighth of the rank and file of this vast army was furnished by Ohio alone. What a commentary upon the growth and prosperity of a State, which, within the memory of the living was a wilderness, the home only of the wild beast and the savage!

We are assembled here to-day within an artificial enclosure, planned, laid out and constructed with the scientific skill of a modern engineer, but by another race of people.*

THE SERVICE OF OHIO SOLDIERS.

They fought and bled on every great battle field of the war, from Big Bethel (June 10th, '61), the first to Blakely at Mobile, (April 9th, 1865) the last battle of the war.

*The meeting was held within the "Old Fort," so called, near Newark, formerly a circular earthwork of more than a mile in circumference, still standing, 20 feet in height. These works were built by a race with some knowledge of engineering, existing prior to the modern Indians and to them unknown even by tradition. Some conjecture the works were constructed by the "Mound Builders;" others that they belonged to another race called "Image-Builders," from their works being often, as here, constructed to represent birds, beasts and reptiles. Whether these works were erected for defense in war, for the purpose of religious rites and ceremonies, or for tournaments or the celebration of games, is wholly left to conjecture.

Within forty-eight hours of the first call for troops the 1st and 2d Ohio Infantry Regiments were hastening to the defense of the imperiled Capital.

Ohio soldiers followed Thomas to victory at Mill Springs, and Garfield of Ohio, at Prestonburg, Ky. in January, 1862.

Ohio Soldiers formed a large part of the army that stormed the works and captured Fort Donaldson, where, under Grant, a son of Ohio, the eagles of the Union soared first to victory on the grander theater of war. They fought at Island No. 10, at Shiloh, Corinth, Iuka and Perryville. Her soldiers bore a large share in the deadly conflicts at Stone River and Chicamauga under Rosecrans, another of Ohio's great and patriotic Generals.

They were of the grand army under Grant, Sherman and McPherson—what a trio of Ohio Generals!—which swung around to the South of Vicksburg and fought and won the battles of Champion Hills, Jackson and Big Black River, and joined in the siege and capture of Vicksburg,

They fought at Arkansas Post, Port Hudson and Grand Gulf. They also manned gun-boats under Admiral Porter, which, with the aid of the army opened the "Father of Waters" to the Gulf.

During the war they campaigned against the Indians in the far West. They were with Hooker, and thundered down "the defiance of the skies" from above the clouds at Lookout Mountain.

They were under the eagle-eye of Thomas in scaling the heights and seizing the redoubts on Mission Ridge.

They formed a great part of each of the grand divisions of that triune-army in which solid "old Pap Thomas" led the center, McPherson the right and Schofield the left; the whole under "old Tecumseh Sherman," who is neither last nor least of Ohio's great warriors. Under his directing eye that army blazed a pathway almost through mountains, forced the passage of streams, overcame natural and artificial defenses, and a great army, well commanded; fought battles daily for weeks, with more regularity than they partook of their daily bread; stormed the fortified heights at Resaca and Kenesaw Mountain; assaulted the works at Ruff's Mills, where the gallant General Noyes lost a leg; also the fortifications at Jonesboro and Atlanta, and after capturing the latter place and leaving behind a considerable detachment, swept off Eastward to Savannah and the Sea, thence Northward through the Carolinas to

the Old Dominion, tearing out the vitals of the Confederacy, striking terror to the enemy and carrying the flag to victory.

They were present at the captures of Nashville, Memphis, New Orleans, and Richmond. The Ohio soldiers fought and triumphed at Franklin, under Stanley, of Ohio, and at Nashville, under Thomas.

Ohio "*boys in blue*" fought at Pea Ridge and assaulted at Forts Wagner and Fisher; they also, under General Wm. B. Hazen, of Ohio, stormed Fort McAllister, on the Atlantic coast.

They fought at Rich Mountain, Bull Run, Cheat Mountain, Port Republic, at Fair Oaks, Malvern Hills, Cedar Mountain, Groveton and Manassah, South Mountain and Antietam, Winchester, Fredericksburg, under Burnside; Chancellorsville, under Hooker, and Gettysburg, under Meade; also, at Mine Run. They were of the Army of the Potomac in that "All Summer" campaign of 1864, in which an almost continuous battle raged from the Rapidan to Petersburg. They bled and died at the Wilderness, Spotsylvania and Cold Harbor. They constituted throughout the war, a part of the body-guard of the capitol.

They were under that other son of Ohio, General Sheridan, at Opequon and Fisher's Hill, in the Shenandoah Valley, in the former of which, General Crook (an Ohio man), with Hayes (now President of the United States), at the head of the Kanawha Division, hurled, like an avalanche, the Army of West Virginia upon Breckinridge's forces, overthrew the left wing of Early's army and insured its defeat and rout.

They were with Sheridan, too, at the bloody battle of Cedar Creek, where he rode from Winchester, "twenty miles away," to the music of the cannons roar, and at the end of the day, achieved a victory, which for completeness, is without a parallel among the important field engagements of the war, if in the annals of history.

The battle of Marengo, in Italy, in some degree affords a parallel to the battle of Cedar Creek in its dual character—practically two battles in one day—and also in the complete overthrow and almost total annihilation of the army, victorious in the onset of the battle. In other respects the two battles were widely dissimilar. Napoleon won the battle of Marengo by the opportune arrival on the field of Desaix, the hero of the battle of the Pyramids, with six thousand fresh troops. The battle of Cedar Creek was won by the timely arrival of Sheridan *without troops*.

Ohio soldiers were in the sieges of Petersburg and Richmond; also of Charleston, under Gilmore, another of her heroes. They defended Knoxville under Burnside. They rushed to glory over the ramparts at Petersburg. They bared their breasts to the storm at Five Forks and at Sailor's Creek.

They were in at the crowning success and witnessed the surrender of the Army of Northern Virginia, under Lee, at Appomattox, to General Grant. They were with Sherman at Bentonville, and in the redemption of North Carolina and the capture of that other great Confederate army, under General Joseph E. Johnson.

Her Generals and soldiers held posts of honor, when they were posts of responsibility and danger. Many of the scenes of conflict where Ohio's sons fought and fell are nameless, and they are almost numberless. They were in every place of danger and duty, where the battle-flags were unfurled. They marched, bivouaced, fought and died along the shores of the Atlantic, the Gulf of Mexico, on the Rio Grande, the Mississippi, the Cumberland and Tennessee. They as sailors and marines, were under Dahlgren, DuPont, Porter, Foote and Farragut, and with them also, on the Rivers, the Gulf, and the Sea, won glory and renown, and paid the debt of patriotism and valor.

Ohio blood was poured out wherever sacrifices were required. They were neither sectional in their opinions nor their duty. Believing in one flag and one country, they fought side by side with men of all stations and of all extractions, and for the preservation of the God-granted and natural boon of liberty and equality.

They were component parts of each of the grand Union armies which contended upon the thirty-one principal battle fields of the war. They were generally present at each of the 2,731 battles, affairs or skirmishes of the war. Their trials, sufferings and dangers were not confined to the combats of the contending hosts.

OHIO'S HUMAN SACRIFICES.

The scythe of destruction cut a wide swath, and death garnered a super-abundant harvest of Ohio's sons during the more than four years war.

There were 24,591 Ohio soldiers killed or mortally wounded in actual combat, or who died before the expiration of their terms of enlistment of disease. Of this number 6,536 were of the mangled

slain, who died where they fell on the field of action, and 4,674 others ebbed out their lives in field-hospitals after receiving mortal wounds, and 13,354 died of disease in hospital or prison, from exposure or cruel starvation.

Thirty-seven were killed or mortally wounded, and forty-seven died of disease, &c., out of every thousand of Ohio troops.

The "Destroying Angel," neither in peace nor war, respects persons, rank, caste, class or station. The Angel of Death spread wide his wings and swooped in his victims from among the heroes of the bayonet and sabre, the musket, the cannon and the sword.

The vigilant, nervous and accomplished General O. M. Mitchell fell a victim to disease. The brave, but gentle, General Sill (Joshua W.) grandly and heroically met his fate at Stone River. The chivalric and knightly Lytle (General William H.) died, as he had wished, of a mortal wound on the field of glory, at Chicamauga. General Rob't L. McCook, after a most brilliant career of usefulness, and with still greater promise, also died of a mortal wound. There was also General Daniel McCook who, when he entered the army, bade friends farewell with the remark: "Here goes for a star or a soldier's grave," and both came together.

The list of distinguished officers, whose lives paid the forfeit of our Nation's sins, is long. Among the most conspicuous names are Colonels Lorin Andrews, Minor Milliken, Frederick C. Jones, Wm. G. Jones, John T. Toland, J. H. Patrick, C. G. Harker, J. W. Lowe, Geo. P. Webster, J. K. L. Smith, James M. Shane, J. D. Elliott, Leander Stem, Augustus H. Coleman, Barton S. Kyle, and M. S. Wooster.

It is invidious to name any. Almost every cemetery or village grave yard in Ohio attests the number.

The grand total of losses in the Union army, from Sumpter to the final peace, was 294,000 men, 9,000 of whom were officers, and 285,000 enlisted men. The loss in Ohio officers alone, is known to have reached 872, nearly ten per centum of the grand total of officers, and every eleventh enlisted man of the Union army who fell in the war, was an Ohio soldier.

The total of the losses in battle of all kinds in both the American and British armies in the seven years war of the Revolution, excluding only the captured at Saratoga and Yorktown, is 21,526. This number falls 4,000 below Ohio's dead-list alone during the late war.

In summing up Ohio's sacrifices, mention has only been made of the dead during the war, omitting those who have since died of wounds and disease contracted in the service, and the many mangled and disabled living soldiers.

The soldiers suffered and died in camp, on the march, as guards and sentinels by day and by night, during the bivouac, in tent, hospital and prison, and while exposed to storms in all seasons and climes. In all the movements of the army disease and death followed in the train.

I have spoken so far of the blood shed, and not of the broken hearts and bitter tears of sorrow incident thereto. Who knows or who can measure the sorrows and sufferings of the agonized hearts left desolate at home? Here all human calculation ceases. Heaven's Recording Angel has not failed to note these sacrifices.

What a grand army of Ohio soldiers now muster beyond the grave? Such is briefly and imperfectly Ohio's human sacrifice to the principle of national unity and freedom to all beneath the stars and stripes.

Costly, Oh! how costly the sacrifice!

Hersons died to atone with their blood, for our Nation's sins against humanity. Let us now and ever hope and pray that this atoning sacrifice may not have been in vain. Nay; more, let us *swear*, by the blood and sufferings of our maimed and fallen comrades, and by the tears and sorrows of the broken-hearted widows and orphans of these comrades, to so act that they *shall not* have died in vain.

Did time permit I might recount other material sacrifices made by Ohio in the war. Those who went to the field were not the only sufferers; nor were they the only persons who devoted their service and lives to their country. The moral grandeur of the war was intensified by the heroism with which the loyal ladies labored at home, in hospital and on the field, to ameliorate its horrors.

The work of Misses Mary Clark Braton and Ellen F. Terry in organizing the Sanitary Commission, at Cleveland, and conducting its affairs on a scale co-equal with the magnitude of the war, crowns them as "Queens of Mercy." To mention names in this connection is again invidious. Florence Nightingale was the central female figure of the Crimean war. Her philanthropic labors, in angelic grandeur, there outshone all others. In their sublimity and holiness they have been pronounced a sufficient compensation for the horrors of a long and bloody war.

The second war for freedom in America produced a thousand Florence Nightingales. By their work, they closed a hell of agonies and opened a Heaven of joy.

OHIO'S GALAXY OF GENERALS.

Genl. Grant *won* his way from retired life to the rank of General. Skill, pluck and perseverance crowned his career as an officer with uniform success; and success in war is the only royal road to greatness.

Sherman, now worthily succeeded to the rank of General-in-Chief of the Armies of the U. S. fore-cast the war in the West on too large a scale for the comprehension of many in authority, and for a time he was allowed to stand aside, as insane, until the logic of events brought others up to his far reaching comprehension. He, too, won his high rank. He did not acquire it by influence or accident.

Lt.-Genl. Sheridan was a Captain, newly made, when the war broke out. He wrote to a friend thus: "Who knows? Perhaps I may have a chance to earn a Major's Commission." Such vaulting ambition was never to be realized. He *earned* a Major General's Commission, during the war and with it the acknowledged title of the first General of Cavalry. This only does him partial justice for he was, as an Army Commander, a great strategist. He leaped over the rank of Major, also Lt. Col. in the regular army, and he never held a rank below Colonel in the Volunteer Service. At the head of Cavalry he was to Grant what Marshal Murat was to the first Napoleon.

Maj. Genl. Rosecrans was, by many competent military critics, placed at the head of the great strategists of the war. He fought in W. Va., he triumphed at Iuka, Corinth and Stone-River, and fought against odds, the great battle of Chickamauga and seized and held Chatanooga, the prize to be won.

Genl. Quincy A. Gilmore was the greatest of Artillerists. It will seem unjust to pursue this review of Ohio's Chiefs further.

Ohio's complete list of Volunteer Major Generals, most of whom wrote their names high on the scroll of fame, was a score in number. They were Geo. B. McClellan, Wm. S. Rosecrans, Phil. H. Sheridan, James B. McPherson, O. M. Mitchell, Q. A. Gilmore, Irvin McDowell, D. C. Buell, Robt. C. Schenck, James A. Garfield, Wm. B. Hazen, Jacob D. Cox, Geo. A. Custer, J. B. Steadman, Godfrey

Weitzel, David S. Stanley, Geo. Crook, Wager Swayne, Alex. McD. McCook and M. D. Leggett.

Twenty-seven was her list of Brevet Major Generals; thirty of Brig. Generals and one hundred and fifty of Brevet Brig. Generals. Two hundred and twenty-nine completes her list of General officers.

Proud as we may be of Ohio on account of her high military chieftains, we are yet more proud of her on account of her 340,000 volunteer soldiers.

OF OHIO'S CIVILIANS,

Who held exalted positions during the war and contributed in a high degree to insure success, I can only here name Edwin M. Stanton, the great War-Secretary; Salmon P. Chase, Secretary of the Treasury; Senators Wade and Sherman, the former Chairman of the Committee on the Conduct of the War, and the latter Chairman of the Senate Committee on Finance, and her War Governors, Denison, Tod and Brough.

THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE WAR

are commensurate with the sacrifices made. The States were, by many, supposed to be united only, by links with an "open weld." In the fiery furnace of red-handed war, these links were indissolubly forged together.

The word *Nation*, as applied to the United States meant not a mere *league* alone. By the "wager of battle" the right of secession was tried. The decree rendered should be final.

The "*irrepressible conflict*" came, and slavery died at the foot of the victor—*Freedom*. Between freedom and slavery, there were no affinities; and concessions and compromises could no longer avail. Freedom is to slavery what water is to fire. Slavery was buried beneath the rubbish and mad havoc of war. The manacles of the slave were shivered to fragments by the precision of the fire of the sons of freedom.

The Emancipation Proclamation and 13th Constitutional Amendment gave to the poor slave a legal form, only, to his rightful liberties.

By the irresistible might of an organic law, our Government is shorn of all power to enslave or oppress any of its subjects; and from whatsoever country or clime a man may flee to our shores, slavery's chains shall never bind him.

Slavery, as an evil, stood in the way of the material prosperity of our county. The war eradicated the evil.

Four million slaves were set free.

All the material and important results of the war cannot be named. War is not an unmixed evil.

Christianity and civilization moved forward a pace, amid the barbarities of the war.

Genl. Thomas said in 1868: "We have not only broken down "one of the most formidable rebellions that ever threatened the existence of any country, but the discipline of the Army of the Cumberland alone has civilized 200,000 valuable patriots and citizens."

No human calculation is adequate to set forth the blessings which are yet to flow from the sacrifice made.

God, in his Providence, will not permit the Temple of Liberty, sanctified and purified anew by the blood of so many patriots, to perish from the earth.

The trophied glory of the splendid deeds of our soldiers and sailors are insignificant, when measured by the triumph of a hallowed cause. It was more glorious to suffer and to die, breaking, than forging fetters for the feet of humanity.

Henry the Great will be known in history, less for his military prowess and the white plume of Navarre, than for the cause of religious liberty in which he fought. The Edict of Nantes, the crowning result of his triumphs, was to the Huguenots, what the Emancipation Proclamation of the immortal Lincoln was to the American slave.

IN CONCLUSION,

I repeat again, that the achievements of Ohio's soldiers and sailors are the common property of all. Ohio claims a share in the high deeds and the glory of the Union soldiers and sailors of the other States.

The survivors of the war are welcome here to-day, from whatever State they may have donned the "Union blue." All jealousies and rivalries dissipated in front of the enemy.

Duty did not end with the muster-out. The duties incident to perfect citizenship are multiform.

This meeting is worthy of the surviving soldiers and sailors.

Here let us renew those friendships formed when—

"The soul of battle was abroad
And blazed upon the air."

Among the duties as citizens, not yet fully discharged, are those

we owe the still afflicted families of our deceased and disabled comrades.

Among the possible higher duties, are those we owe to ourselves and to posterity to preserve, perpetuate and transmit untarnished, a regenerated Republic.

To our common enemies of the war, who laid down their treason, secession and rebellion with their arms, all true soldiers are magnanimous.

Such of our old enemies require no forgiveness ; need no conciliation and demand no concession.

To those of our old enemies who demand the killing of the "fatted calf" before they have eschewed the husks of secession and returned from their riotous living, and still predict, as does the arch-traitor, Jefferson Davis, that secession will yet be a reality, we say, no conciliation, no concession

While Mercy's mission has been invoked in behalf of all our foes ; yet let us not nurse under her mantle, the deadly bane of secession. We had better let bandaged-eyed Justice loose, to assert her rights.

Let it never be said that the only permanent achievement of the war was—*glory*.

If this is all, then—

"What boots the oft-repeated tale of strife,

"The feast of vultures and the waste of life,"

Remembering our comrades, the martyred slain, stepping to the music of "Freedom's Lyre," and with the cadence of war's discipline upon the gory field, let us keep our places in battle-line while life lasts, ever crying—

"Stand by the Flag! all doubts and treason scorning,

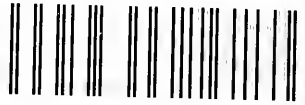
"Believe, with courage firm and faith sublime ;

"That it will float until the eternal morning

"Pales, in its glories, all the lights of Time."



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